

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.257
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Barrett, James House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	612 Barrett's Mill Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	E1-1989-1-
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1758
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal; Georgian
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

E7-1989-1-1

CONCORD

257

Town CONCORD

Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

## Photograph

(3"x 3" or 3"x 5", only black and white)

Staple onto the left side of the form. Indicate the

Address 612 Barrett's Mill RoadHistoric Name James Barrett, Esq., House"Major" James/George Barrett HousePresent double-houseOriginal single-family dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1758Evidence Wheeler; visual evidenceForm Georgian/FederalArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed graniteTrim wood clapboardasphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures \_\_\_\_\_

2-car garageMajor Alterations (with dates) sheds

& carriage house at E. end destroyed 1921; early 20th C. entry porch demol. by 1938 hurricane.

Condition excellentMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 94,790 sq. feet

Setting At corner of College Rd; faces marsh and woods opposite; wooded ridge to rear. Low hedge across front. In area of primarily 20th-century houses on large lots.

A. Forbes  
research by Beatrice von Baeyer  
Recorded by for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization May, 1991

Date (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_

## BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

One of Concord's most unusual houses, this is the town's only example of a relatively common eighteenth-century building type, the long, pitch-roofed house built or extended to accommodate more than one family. It is 2 1/2-stories, and has two massive off-center ridge chimneys, a dozen fireplaces, and an eight-bay facade with two identical entries. On the east end is another typical feature of the mid- to late-eighteenth century--the "jog," a one-bay shed-roofed extension, here with a later third-story.

The house was updated during the Federal period, probably ca. 1800. It was at this time that the present entries would have been constructed, with their typically Federal narrow, tapered pilasters and high entablatures with molded lintels. The 6-panel doors, which have two glass panels and both raised panels and applied moldings, would have been inserted some time later. The windows, which have slightly projecting, molded surrounds, are 6-over-6-sash. A Federal period door in the west end of the house has a heavy bracketed Italianate hood of ca. 1880; the entry in the east extension is sheltered by an even later hip-roofed hood supported on one lathe-turned post.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

This house was built by one of Concord's Revolutionary heroes, Col. (at that time Captain) James Barrett (b. 1710) [cf. the James Barrett Farm, NR], apparently for his eldest son, also James Barrett (d. 1799). According to tradition, the building was a double house from the start, and the families of both the Colonel and his son lived here at one time, (although the Colonel lived at #448 Barrett's Mill Road in the 1770's.) (The house was built on the former farm of Richard Temple, which was acquired by Col. James some time after 1754, when a map of the North Quarter shows Richard Temple's house standing in approximately this location. It is unknown whether the present building incorporates any of that earlier structure.)

Both James Barretts were members of what Robert Gross has called Concord's "premier political family down to the age of Jackson". The Colonel, who had been Captain of the militia and Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment, a Selectman, and town meeting moderator, was Concord's Representative to the General Court during the volatile years from 1768 to 1776, and took charge of the town's military preparations for the Revolution. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps and atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1906.

Town Directories.

Gross, Robert. The Minutemen and Their World. 1976.

Wheeler House file.

Wheeler. Concord: Climate for Freedom.

Interview with owner 4/29/91.

Keyes, I, 123.

Barrett, J. Fay. "George Minot Barrett", in "Social Circle Memoirs. 1873. (Cont.)

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*



## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDJas. Barrett, Esq.  
HouseMassachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

257

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The younger James, known as Squire after becoming a Justice of the Peace, served on the town's Committee of Correspondence during the Revolution, and became Representative to the General Court in 1782. He was an extensive farmer, and his farm, which adjoined his father's, occupied much of the land on both sides of Barrett's Mill Road between today's Strawberry Hill Road and Annursnac Hill.

Squire James married Millicent Estabrook, and of their ten children the farm was inherited by their son **James**, (b. 1761) whose nickname was "Major" Barrett. All three Jameses contributed to the events of April 19, 1775--even the youngest, at 14, helped conceal the military stores that the British troops searched for that day, many of which were stored at Col. Barrett's farm at 448 Barrett's Mill Road. Both "Major" Barrett and his father, as well as making a living as farmers, taught at the Barrett's Mill district school.

"Major" Barrett married his first cousin Dorcas Minott, and in their time the farm was 230 acres in size. Their son **George Minot Barrett** (1794-1873) greatly improved the farm, and like James A. Smith of Strawberry Hill Road, was known as one of the more progressive farmers of the area. (At the time of his marriage to Eliza Prescott in 1821 his father gave him half the farm, and the management of the other half.) "Major" Barrett had kept only one horse, a pair of oxen, and six cows, cutting 3-4 tons of hay per year. George, however, expanded to a herd of 75 head of cattle, and cut over fifty tons of hay. From 1814 until 1844 he was engaged in the mixed husbandry that characterized most large farms of the early part of the nineteenth century, and raised as many as 350 sheep at one time, pasturing his flock in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, in the summer. Later he developed what came to be known as the finest apple orchard in Concord on the slopes of Annursnac Hill; most of his apples were made into cider, which he refined and sold on the farm. Still later he converted his land to a stock farm, raising prize Ayrshire cattle. He was one of the first in town to grow teasels, which were used hundreds at a time in finishing cloth at the large textile mills of the industrial revolution. He introduced several new varieties of potatoes to the area, as well as at least two varieties of roses.

A well-known local story tells of a sheep-shearing contest he had with Peter Hutchinson, (cf. #324 Bedford Street,) who J. Fay Barrett, writing in 1871 refers to as "our colored townsman.....the ablest common laborer I have ever known." They sheared all day, and it was only after the sun went down that George Barrett pulled ahead, eventually shearing 62 sheep to Hutchinson's 60. (Cont.)

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDJas. Barrett, Esq.  
House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)    Form No.  
                    257

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Faced with failing health, George Barrett sold the farm and moved to Concord center in ca. 1871. The new owner, A.W. Worcester, attempted to convert the building to a tavern; he may even have attempted a bit of horse racing here, as the 1875 map shows this as the "Acushnet Stock Farm", under Worcester's name, and an "Acushnet Race Course" across Barrett's Mill Road. The house was subsequently occupied by Col. S.W. Richardson, an officer at the State Prison, and his family, then by a Dr. Childs, a veterinarian, and a succession of tenants. Late in the nineteenth century the farm was purchased by Daniel Sheehan of West Concord, who farmed the land until well into the twentieth century, succeeded by his son, Charles Sheehan. It is still in the Sheehan family today.



Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
612 Barrett's Mill  
Road

Area(s)	Form No.
	257

## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Recommended:

☒ Individually   ☐ District   ☐ Contributing to a Potential Historic District

Criteria:

A      B      C      D

☒   ☒   ☒   ☐

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by \_\_\_\_\_

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

One of the most well-preserved of Concord's early- to mid-eighteenth-century outlying farmhouses, and the only one in town of the long double-entry, two-story type, this house qualifies under Criterion C of the National Register. For its role as part of the Barrett farm and as the home of Squire James Barrett, a member of the Committee of Correspondence on the eve of the Revolution, it also qualifies under Criteria A and B.



wn Concord HD? ☒ 78  
CON. 257  
 eet 612 Barnetts Mill Rd  
 me Major Barrett  
 iginal Use 4 family house  
 esent Use \_\_\_\_\_  
 esent Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
 te 18th c. Style Q.R.  
 rce of Date QW guess  
 chitect \_\_\_\_\_  
 oved Altered \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: cutstone  
 WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End cluster Elaborate Irregular  
 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency \_\_\_\_\_ Simple/Complex  
 PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony \_\_\_\_\_ Recessed \_\_\_\_\_  
 ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard  
 Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork \_\_\_\_\_  
 FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament  
 Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: 2 centered doors 2 side doors  
 Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/6  
 Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured \_\_\_\_\_

#### OUTBUILDINGS

#### LANDSCAPING

5. Indicate location of structure on map below

6. Footage of structure from street 20'  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo 68-547  
VI-33  
68-548

E.09.065.1.0 78

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)

HD 2-2  
3-3



FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

Interesting architecturally esp. placed here  
Col. Barrett built for son (Major Barrett)  
became big farm - added onto for service.

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds